decision of the Government to pay the sum of Rs. 61,065-5-10 representing the excess collection made by the Trithala Producers' *cub*-Consumers' Co-operative Society to the Trithala High School. No representations from the Welfare Committee, Local Fund Dispensary, Trithala, and the Yuvajana Samajam, Trithala, have been received either by the Government or by the Collector of Malabar.

(*b*) in view of the representations received from various individuals and associations protesting against the decision of the Government and requesting that the sum of Rs. 61,065–5–10 may be given to other schools also in Trithala firka and that a portion may be spent on other local development works, the Government are re-examining the question of utilizing the above sum and, pending further orders, they have directed the Collector of Malabar not to draw and disburse the sum of Rs. 61,065–5–10 to the Trithala High School.

* 272-C *Q.*—SRI E. T. KUNHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any protests from the Welfare Committee, Local Fund Dispensary Trithala, etc., during July 1936 against the orders issued in G.O. No. 1553, dated 16th July 1956, allotting the entire excess amount of Rs. 61,065 collected by the Trithala Producer-*cum*-Consumer Co-operative Society from the ration card holders to Trithala High School; and

(*b*) if so, the steps taken by the Government in the matter?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) & (*b*) The attention of the honourable member is invited to the answer furnished to starred question No. 272-B put by Sri K. Madhavan Nambiar, M.L.A., on the same subject.

SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN : Sir, the Government have passed orders that the excess collection made from the Producer-*cum*-Consumer Societies in Ponnani taluk may be ultilized for Local Development Works. May I know why the Government took a particular decision with regard to the collections from Trithala firka alone to contribute the entire amount to one High School whereas in respect of other places the Government have passed orders for utilizing the amount for all Local Development Works.

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Originally, there was a proposal to construct a bridge and there was a controversy over it. It was found by the Collector that some of the members of the Society were not interested in the construction of the bridge at Chettuvai and then the Collector examined the whole position. The Government took a decision that this application for the benefit of this High School deserved consideration. Therefore, they decided like that.

28th September 1956]

Sri K. KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE : I think the society is in existence even now—may be in the form a P.C.C. Society or it might have been converted into some other society. May I know whether the Government have consulted the Board of Directors of the Society or the general body of the Society before taking the decision to contribute the full amount to the Trithala High School fund or will the Government change their decision and ask the Collector to stay the distribution of the amount?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Sir, as I have stated, in view of the further representations made from various quarters, the entire matter is under examination.

Sri V. BALAKRISHNAN : Sir, since this big sum has been received from a multiplicity of card-holders, will the Hon. Minister adhere to the original decision and see that this amount is distributed for public utility works?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I may at once assure the hon. Member that the money would not be permitted to be spent on public utility causes. These are not contributions of shareholders and this money represents the excess collections made by the sale of rice.

Sri M. NARAYANA KURUP : Inasmuch as these excess collections cannot be refunded to the original card-holders from whom these were collected, it is but just that it is spent on public utility services, though every individual or every party would not be benefited and inasmuch as the subsequent arrangement itself has created a controversy, will the Government revert to the original proposal of constructing a bridge which is a longfelt need and which will be useful to the general public as a great means of highway.

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Sir, it is not practicable to make a refund to the card-holders, but, as I have said, the Board of Revenue is examining the entire matter and on receipt of their recommendations as to the utility of this Fund, the Government will take a decision.

Sri E. T. KUNHAN : സർ, ഈ. പി. സി. സി. സൊസൈററിയിൽ നീക്കിയിരിപ്പുള്ള സംഖ്യ റേഷൻ കാലത്ത് പാവപ്പെട്ടവരുടെ കാർഡുകളിൽ നിന്നും വസൂലായിട്ടുള്ളതാണ്. ഗ്രാമവികസന പദ്ധതികൾക്കു നാട്ടുകാർ പകുതിച്ചെലവു വഹിക്കണമെന്ന് നിശ്ചയിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന സ്ഥിതിക്ക് നാട്ടുകാരിൽനിന്ന് തന്നെ വസൂലായിട്ടുള്ള ഈ സംഖ്യ അതാതു ഗ്രാമങ്ങളിലെ വികസന പദ്ധതികൾക്കായി വിനിയോഗിക്കണമെന്ന് ഗവമ്മേൻറു ഉത്തരവു പുറപ്പെടുവിക്കുമോ ?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : அங்கு கிராமங்களிலுள்ளவர்கள் அதிகப்படியாக அரிசிக்கு பணம்கொடுத்து வாங்கியிருப்பதால் அந்த பணத்தையே அங்குள்ள ஏழைகள் நிமித்தம் செலவு செய்யவேண்டும் என்பதுதான் சர்க்காருடைய உத்தேசம்.

Sri K. P. GOPALAN : Sir, I am glad that the Government are going to re-examine the question. When they re-examine the

[28th September 1956

question, will the Government take into consideration the opinion of the Board of Directors as well as public opinion in this matter and utilise the amount for the benefit of those areas?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The Government will certainly assess public opinion on the part of those concerned with it and then take a decision.

SRI S. RAMALINGAM : மலபாரில் அரிசியை அதிக விலைக்கு விற்றதால் அங்கு அதிகப்படியான பணம் கிடைத்திருக்கிறது. அங்கு இப்பொழுது அரிசி விலை அதிகமாக விற்கப்படுவதால் அந்தப் பணத்தை வைத்துக்கொண்டு அரிசியை குறைந்த விலைக்கு விற்பதற்கு அரசாங்கம் ஏற்பாடு செய்வார்களா ?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : இந்தப் பணம் இல்லாமலேயே இப்பொழுது அங்கு குறைந்த விலைக்குத்தான் விற்கப்படுகிறது. ஆனால் இந்தப் பணத்தைக்கொண்டு ஜனங்களுக்கு பொதுவான வசதி ஏற்படக்கூடிய திட்டங்களை நிறைவேற்றிக் கொடுப்பதாக சர்க்காருடைய உத்தேசம்.

SRI K. KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE : Sir, in this case, the best method of assessing public opinion is to consult the general body of the present society. Will the Government ask the Collector to ask the society to convene a general body meeting and assess their opinion.

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I do not entirely agree with the hon. Member that public opinion could be constituted only within the four circles of the general body of the society. It was not merely the members of the general body that purchased the rice at a higher price but also the members of the general public.

SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN : The Hon. Minister has stated that the Government have instructed the Collector of Malabar not to allow the withdrawal of the amount for the purposes stated here. May I know whether the Government will expedite reconsideration of the matter and see that the amount is spent on Local Development Works distributed in all the villages, inasmuch as the people from every village have contributed to the excess payment? May I also know whether the Government would make their fifty per cent contribution because in Local Development works if the public make 50 per cent contribution, the other 50 per cent will be made by the Government and whether such a contribution will be made by the Government before 1st November 1956?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The Collector's proposals have been received and the Board of Revenue is examining them. It is not possible to distribute the amount to every village but there are proposals that certain other schools should also have the benefit. There are proposals to carry out certain Local Development works and when such works are undertaken, the Government will make their fifty per cent contribution. I do hope that we shall be able to take a decision as expeditiously as possible, at any rate, before 1st November 1956.